

PLANT PATENT
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APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PLANT PATENT

for

CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANT NAMED 'STARLET BRONZE'

by

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This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/421,388, filed October 25, 2002.

LATIN NAME OF THE GENUS AND SPECIES

Botanical classification: *Chrysanthemum morifolium*.

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VARIETY DENOMINATION

The new Chrysanthemum variety denomination is 'Starlet Bronze.'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum botanically known as *Chrysanthemum morifolium*, and referred to by the cultivar name 10 'Starlet Bronze.'

'Starlet Bronze,' identified as 30763-0, originated from a cross made in a controlled breeding program in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom. The female parent of the new variety is an undistributed, unpatented seedling identified as '98092-21.'

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The male parent of the new variety is an undistributed, unpatented seedling identified as '98034.' The new variety 'Starlet Bronze' has been asexually reproduced by vegetative cuttings in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom and the distinguishing characteristics are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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'Starlet Bronze' is a garden type of Chrysanthemum plant variety having uniform canopy of small bronze single flowers.

Comparison with Parent

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Plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Bronze' are similar to the parent variety '98092-21' in plant habitat and growth rate. In side-by-side comparisons in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom, under commercial practice, plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Bronze' differ from plants of the parent '98092-21' in the following characteristics.

1. The new variety 'Starlet Bronze' produces bronze single flowers whereas the parent '98092-21' produces yellow single flowers.

2. Plants of the new variety 'Starlet Bronze' have larger and shorter inflorescence than plants of the parent '98092-21.'

Comparison with Other Varieties

Plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Bronze' are similar to the 5 unpatented variety 'Trapeze' in plant habit and growth rate. However, in side-by-side comparisons in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom, under commercial practice, plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Bronze' differed from plants of the variety 'Trapeze' in the following characteristics.

- 10 1. The new variety 'Starlet Bronze' produces small yellow bronze colored flowers whereas 'Trapeze' produces small red bronze flowers.
2. Plants of the new variety 'Starlet Bronze' have larger and slightly taller inflorescence than plants of the variety 'Trapeze.'

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATION

Typical specimens of the plant and flowers for the new Chrysanthemum variety 15 'Starlet Bronze' are shown in the accompanying digital photograph. The colors shown are as true as possible within the usual limits of this kind of illustration. Figure 1 is a whole plant view of the new variety 'Starlet Bronze' grown in a pot. The plant shown in the illustration is 63 days from planting outside in mid-June.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

20 The following description of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Starlet Bronze' is of plants grown outside, natural season, in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom in the month of June. The cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in the environment such as temperature, length of day and light intensity, without any variance in genotype. 25 The commercial classification of the new variety is a garden Chrysanthemum.

Plants of the new variety have been grown successfully under temperature conditions averaging about 50°F at night and about 65°F to 75°F during the day under natural light conditions. The plants were grown outdoors in mid-June in 4 liter pots using loamless compost. No growth retardants were used.

To produce a commercial product the plants may be pinched once with the center bud removed. The typical container size for commercial growth is 4 liters (8"). It has been observed that the shelf life of the new variety is about 25 days with a response time of about 9 weeks. The new variety is suitable for growth in a temperature range of 50°F to 75°F.

The new variety may be produced as a pot plant. The following description is with respect to a plant produced as a garden pot plant. In the description of this new Chrysanthemum variety, color values have been taken from the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.C.C.).

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Plant

Plant type: Pot

Habit: Domed/Round

Height: 45 cm

Width: 45 cm

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Branching characteristics: Free Branching

Length of Lateral Branches: 14-25 cm

Number of Breaks from Pinch: 9-15

Stem Color: near 137A

Response Time: 63 days

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Vigor: Medium

Shelf Life: 25 days

Disease (Susceptibility/Resistance observed): None observed to date

Pest (Susceptibility/Resistance observed): None observed to date

Growth retardant type and treatment: No treatment necessary

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The plants were grown for 9 weeks in natural season conditions.

Propagation:

Type: Vegetative Propagation via Stem Cuttings

Time to rooting: 12 days with soil temperatures of 70°F

Rooting habit: Fine and Fibrous

Foliage

Number of Leaves Per Lateral Branch: 10-18

Compound or single: Single

5 Arrangement of Leaves: Alternate

Shape of Leaf: Typically 5 lobed ovate

Size of Leaf: *Width* (cm): 2-4.5 *Length* (cm): 3.5-5

Leaf Apex: Acute

Base: Truncate

10 Attachment: Petioled

Aspect: Slightly Undulating

Margin: Palmately Lobed

Surface characteristics: *Top*: Slightly Pubescent

Bottom: Slightly Pubescent

15 Petiole: *Color*: near 138B

Length: 1-1.5 cm

Venation: Net prominent mid vein at underside.

Color: *upper side*: near 138B

under side: near 138C

20 Color: Mature Leaf, *upper side*: near 138A; *under side*: near 138B

Young Leaf, *upper side*: near 138A; *under side*: near 138B

Flower

Flower appearance: Matte

Flower type: Single

25 Flower form: Flat

Flower shape: Round

Flowering habit: Cyme

Number of blossoms per branch: 12-21

Inflorescence form: Corymibiform

Depth of fully expanded blossoms: 1 cm

Diameter of fully expanded blossoms: 2.5-3.5 cm

5 Phyllaries: *Number:* 22-25

Color: near 137C

Length: 5-8 mm

Width: 1-2.5 mm

Texture/Appearance: Shiny/Slightly Pubescent

10 Pedicel: *Length:* terminal: 6 cm; lateral: 9.5 cm

Color: near 137C

Surface: Pubescent

Habit: Slightly Curving

Strength: Medium

15 Ray florets: *Form/Shape:* Straight

Texture/Appearance: Matte

Number per flower: 27-35

Length: 1.5-1.9 cm; *Width:* 4-5 mm

Apex: Rounded

20 *Base:* Tubular

Margin: Entire

Disc florets: *Form/Shape:* Cylindrical

Texture/Appearance: Shiny

Number per flower: 120-150

25 *Length:* 6.5 cm; *Width:* 1 mm

Diameter of disc: 0.8-1.0 cm

Fragrance: None

Flower Bud (at onset of color):

Length: 9 mm

30 *Diameter:* 9 mm

Form/Shape: Globular

General flower color:

1. Ray florets, *upper side*:

Immature: near 169A

5 *Mature:* near 169C

Older/Fading: near 17B

2. Ray florets, *under side*:

Immature: near 169A

Mature: near 169C

10 *Older/Fading:* near 17B

3. Disc florets:

Immature: near 15C

Mature: near 15A

Older/Fading: near 15A

15 4. Bud: 62A

Flower progression with age: Flowers fade uniformly with age and retain their flower shape.

Reproductive Organs

Gynoecium present on Ray and Disc florets.

20 Ray florets per individual flower:

Pistil number: 25-27 observed

Stigma color: near 144D

Stigma shape: Forked

Style color: near 144D

25 *Style length:* 1-2 mm

Disc florets per individual flower:

Pistil number: 120-130 observed

Stigma color: near 144D

Stigma shape: Forked

Style color: near 144D

Style length: 1.5-2.5 mm

Androecium present on Disc florets only.

5 *Stamen number:* 75-80 observed

Anther shape: Clubbed

Anther color: near 14C

Pollen color: near 12A

Pollen quantity: Medium/Low

10 Fruit and Seeds: None observed